AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Listing of the claims:

Following is a listing of all claims in the present application, which listing supersedes all previously presented claims:

1-4   (Canceled)

5.   (Currently Amended) A distributed processing system comprising:

at least one server; and

a plurality of clients linked in series, wherein the plurality of clients are linked to the at least one server, and the at least one server has server functionality with regard to the plurality of clients under normal conditions,

wherein at least one of said clients is operable in standalone fashion and has server functionality so that it executes processing of application or applications installed therein in response to requests issued by other clients and outputs the results of the processing to said clients that issued such requests, and operates as a back-up server with regard to the rest of the plurality of clients when the at least one server goes down.

6.   (New) The distributed processing system according to claim 5, wherein processing of a POS application in a POS client having the server functionality includes at least one of the following: product registration, product search, transaction aggregation per transaction, tax aggregation per transaction, discount per target product, designation of payment method, settlement, transaction history registration, and operator authentication and registration.